

# The Weekly Clarion.

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Official Journal of the State of Mississippi.

Official Journal of the City of Jackson.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1877.

SPEAKER RANDALL is opposed to the conference plan. So is Judge Black. MASSACHUSETTS retires Boutwell after his investigating labors in Mississippi. Served his right.

THE Arkansas Legislature has done a patriotic service in electing Hon. A. H. Garland to the U. S. Senate.

It is said that an unattractive Hayes elector has certainly been found in Minnesota. They are investigating him.

SINCE the colored people have become independent voters, it is not in order to estimate the Radical vote by their numbers.

THE testimony of Judge Swann before the Congressional Committee, in regard to Mississippi affairs, will be read more in sorrow than in anger.

THE MISSISSIPPI INVESTIGATION.—It will be seen that the testifiers are still busily plying their trade.

HON. B. F. JONES is running ahead for U. S. Senate in the legitimate Legislature of Louisiana. The Democrats of our sister State could not elect a better man.

COL. M. B. HILLIARD, of Pike county, was elected by the Legislature, yesterday, Commissioner of Immigration and Agriculture.

We have copied in another column an extract from the journals of the Legislature pending the passing the Apportionment Inquiry in 1871. It will be seen that it was opposed by every Democrat in both houses.

WHEN the present apportionment law was passed by the Radicals to disfranchise the white counties on account of their Democratic majorities, every Democrat in the Legislature voted against it.

A PROMINENT member of Congress writes us in regard to the conference plan: "It is a mean bill and an unmanly evasion and skulking of a plain constitutional duty. It has opposition from both parties."

THE Yazoo Herald states that "Yazoo City under Democratic rule is free of debt, her warrants at par and money enough in the treasury to pay current expenses until mid summer;" and asks, "what other town in the State can make so good a showing?"

OUR Sea-shore contemporaries are unanimous and earnest in their call upon the House to pass the Senate bill securing to the disfranchised white counties representation in the Legislature; and they are appealing for nothing but what is right. Can a Democratic Legislature afford to reject their petition?

Eight hundred dollars would not have been a costly expenditure if it had brought with it the Governorship and appointment of the Judiciary, and other patronage, but Ames refused to perform his part of the programme, and the fat went into the fire. So they say.

HON. J. A. McNEIL, the able and useful Senator from Pontotoc was detained by illness from his seat during the early part of the session. We are gratified to state that he is now sufficiently restored to attend to his public duties.

If the improvement in the financial condition of our State is as great as demonstrated in Auditor Gibbs' report (and no one can gainsay his statements and his figures) what honest, right-thinking Mississippian will regret the political revolution by which these results were achieved?

A CALL has been issued for a bankers' Convention to assemble in Washington City on the 30th of the present month. The object of this Convention is to discuss the subject of bank taxes imposed by national and State authorities, and recommend such modifications to Congress and to the different State Legislatures as may seem just and fair to all concerned.

THE people have decided the Presidential election at the ballot-box. The Constitution prescribes the mode of counting the votes. Congress has no authority to transfer the power vested in it to an irresponsible tribunal, nor have its Democratic members a right to impede the fruits of the victory which was fairly won for reform at the polls.

"MR. HEWITT says that bonds will go up as soon as the conference plan is introduced"—that accounts for the milk in the cocoanut. The "bonds" are in the way. The Presidential issue must be settled with reference to right and justice, but to save the value of the "bonds." Shylock must have his pound of flesh.

THE Cincinnati Enquirer, the leading Democratic journal in Ohio, opposes the Conference Electoral plan, and says the fact that it is approved is a virtual admission that the power rests at present with both branches of Congress, and not with either the President or the Senate or any other person. This power should be held sacred by Congress, and not be allowed to pass into other hands.

THE conference plan of counting the electoral votes will consist of five members of Congress from each house; and five Supreme Judges. The four whose districts are named in the bill are Justices Field, Clifford, Miller and Strong, who are to elect the fifth. Justice Clifford is a Democrat. The others are all Republicans, and two of them (Justices Field and Miller) are reported to have expressed themselves very decidedly in the Hayes interest. Verbum sat.

## The Political Revolution in Mississippi and the Causes that Produced It.

The Times returns to the stale calumny that the Republican majority in Mississippi was overcome by intimidation and fraud, and not in consequence of the corruption, maladministration and extravagance which had aroused all classes against it, and produced an invincible determination on the part of the people to rid the State of its rule. The Times itself furnishes the most conclusive answer to its present statements as to the cause of the political revolution in this State. It opposed the regular organization of the Republican party with unbending zeal in 1874, and charged it with being responsible for the evils which it appealed to the people to remedy. As late as September, 1875, it contained the following suggestion of revolutionary means for overthrowing the rule of the Radical corruptionists in Hinds county: "It is notorious that corrupt men are endeavoring to direct the affairs of the heretofore peaceful and law-abiding county of Hinds, and we are not responsible for the repetition of the scenes of disorder, violence and bloodshed by which Warren county has already been disgraced."

This question was put to us yesterday by a prominent colored Republican, and we unhesitatingly answered, Yes.

In further explanation of the causes which wrought in the public mind a determination, that nothing could shake, to throw off the yoke of the corruptionists, we will cite the following extract from a petition which was addressed to the Republican Legislature in December 1874, by the Jackson Republican Club: "To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi:—Whereas the debt of the State has grown so large, and is still increasing with such fearful rapidity, and the taxes have become so onerous that they threaten the gradual confiscation of property in the payment of these taxes; and whereas the members of the present Legislature, before they were elected, promised reform and retrenchment, and right economy in the administration of the government; and whereas the people are becoming restless and uneasy, and have just cause to be alarmed at the present condition of things—the large and rapidly increasing debt of the State, the enormous expenses of the government, the burdensome taxation to meet these expenses, and the failure of the Legislature to retrench and reform; and whereas the members of the Legislature and the long protracted session, the repealing, amending, and modifying of the old laws, and enacting wholly new ones, have made many of the laws so obscure and uncertain that it is almost impossible to understand them; therefore,

Resolved, That the Republican Club of the city of Jackson appeals earnestly to the justice, moderation, and wisdom of the members of the Legislature to remember their promise of reform and retrenchment, made to the people, and adopt such measures as will prove to the burdened and oppressed people that they are sincere and sincere in their promises, and that they intend to carry out the pledges of economy they made."

It has become history that this remonstrance against the abuses to which the State had been subjected under Republican rule, and petitions for redress, were treated with contempt by the Republican Legislature.

In reference to the prevalent corruptions of the cabal which controlled the State, Hon. J. S. Morris, Attorney General, in a letter to the aforesaid club, used this emphatic and prophetic language: "The evils which have for some time past afflicted the classes of our people, are attributable in a large degree to the desertion by high Republican leaders of the principles of the party, to willful and flagrant violations of the constitution which they are sworn to support. These evils, well known to every intelligent man in the State, and well known to every intelligent man, cannot and will not be secretly and unobtrusively discussed, exposed and punished in the next election."

In 1875 the evils here so forcibly described were "discussed and exposed," and they were also "punished" by a popular verdict of 31,000 majority against the party which had perpetrated them.

Who will aver in the face of such high Republican testimony, that the verdict was not just, and that it was produced by any other than legitimate and proper agencies springing directly from the reason and conviction of the people? Revolutions do not go backwards. The party which was elected in 1875 to reform the evils which the result of all previous elections had produced, and which they had faithfully. The masses of the people of all classes were satisfied with the result. It was not in human nature for them to return to the slough of despond from which they had extricated themselves. They had experienced a taste of good government and were determined to adhere to it. None more than the colored population realized the benefits of the change. The consequence was an increased Democratic majority in the Presidential election. The charge of bulldozing and fraud is a false and shallow expedient of office-holders who are striving to win by tampering with the returns which they have lost fairly at the ballot-box. Mississippi is Democratic by 60,000, and the vipers may gnaw the file to their hearts content.

BILLS have been introduced in the Ohio Legislature to allow railroads and express companies to charge for storage on unmarked packages, and to punish the obtaining of signatures on commercial paper by false pretenses the same as for forgery.

In the Ohio Legislature a resolution was adopted calling on the railroad commissioners to inquire and report what railroads in the State, if any, are running cars without being properly equipped with bridges and guards between the cars as required by law.

REFERRING to the Democratic caucus on the Electoral arbitration bill, the Washington Union says that "Speaker Randall and others objected to the bill on the ground that it was unconstitutional, as it delegated powers vested in Congress."

THE Joint Committee's plan of arbitrating the Presidential question provides that when only one set of returns is presented from a State any objection to their reception must be sustained by the concurrent vote of both houses. If the contrivance is adopted this provision will have the merit of destroying the plan of the conspirators to prevent the votes of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and other Southern States, from which there are but one set of returns, from being counted. The objection of the Senate will amount to nothing, as it will require the concurrent action of both houses.

## The Question of Adjustment.

It must be apparent to every member of the Legislature, that it is impossible for that body to adjourn on Saturday, the 27th inst., without leaving undone the important public business which is required to be performed. But four working days, including to-day, remain.

The present Legislature has thus far made an excellent record. Its acts at the first session crowned it with unfading honor; and we are not prepared to believe that in the haste of members to return to their homes and private avocations they will sacrifice the golden opinions which they then won. Necessarily that session was protracted. The Legislature had the guilty State officials to deal with. It had the hideous structure of carpetbag misrule to tear down; and another to erect on a basis of intelligence, justice and economy. It had reforms to work out in every department, and throughout all the ramifications of the State government. It is not strange that in the mass of business requiring attention, some things were left undone which ought to have been done. No body has complained of these things. It has been the admiration of the people that so much was done; and they have been content to wait until the present session, fully satisfied that errors would be corrected, contradictions reconciled, omissions supplied, and the work, so gloriously begun, rounded off and left as a monument of the wisdom and patriotism of those to whom the duty of performing it was confided.

Upon the committees was devolved the duty of digesting, maturing and reporting the various matters of importance which require legislation. They have not been idle, and the business for the most part is now in such a shape as to receive the final action of the two houses.

Look at the absolutely essential measures of legislation that are to be passed! The revenue bill which cannot be passed in haste without a criminal violation of public trust, because the financial system of the State rests upon it, has not been considered at all in the Senate; the public school law; the privilege tax bill; the registration and election law; the apportionment inquiry; the general appropriation bill; and legislation rendered necessary for the protection of the interests of the State by the foreclosure and sale of certain railroads. And to these might be added others of minor consideration compared to the foregoing, but of intrinsic value to the public—all demanding the attention of the Legislature. We know that to the people the time of that body is money, but there is no danger that the ninety thousand dollars already appropriated to defray the expenses of the Legislature will be exceeded even if it remains in session long enough to transact the business which it finds to do. Moreover, the members are paid by the year and not by the day, and in that particular the cost will be the same to the people whether the session is twenty-four working days or an indefinite period.

We have taken it for granted that the resolution fixing a day for adjournment was designed more as an expression of a purpose not to protract the sessions unnecessarily than an intention to adjourn whether the public business was transacted or not, and that the two houses will concur in rescinding it.

Resolved, That we demand that Congress shall honestly and impartially ascertain the result of said election upon the same principle and through the same processes by which the result of all previous actual elections have been ascertained and declared since the foundation of our Government; and to the popular will thus ascertained and declared, the sixty thousand Democrats of Maine will render willing obedience, and they will render it cheerfully and honestly to every citizen of the Republic.

Resolved, That if conspirators are now allowed to succeed in their attempt to elect a vote of two or three States and counting them for candidates against whom there is a clear majority, a similar proceeding at any future election can be applied to ten or any number of States necessary to retain power in the hands of the ruling party, and elective government in this country would be at an end.

NOTE.—This is very fine, and very high-sounding; but what does it amount to, if Congress, after "ascertaining the result," and knowing as it positively will that Mr. Tilden is elected, shirks its responsibility, and submits the question as to who shall occupy the Presidency to a board of arbitrators unknown to the Constitution, and who will decide according to their partisan predilections? Why not have devolved the election at once upon ten members of Congress and five Supreme Judges, without all the turmoil, strife and cost of an election in the mode directed by the Constitution?

## The Electoral Plan.

Referring to this new-fangled plan of the Joint Committee, the N. O. Democrat says: "If the Democratic party of the West and North have not the manhood to assert their rights at all hazards—rights accorded to them by a popular majority of nearly three hundred thousand voters and twenty-three electors; if they are so much concerned about their material interests that they can calmly contemplate submission to usurpation and dare not face the dread alternative of war, because of the losses it might entail, then we have no doubt that they will gladly embrace the opportunity presented to them by this plan of escaping from their dilemma."

WHAT RADICAL MISRULE HAS DONE.—This is the picture which the New Orleans Republican, the organ of the Kellogg-Packard government, draws of the condition of affairs in that State. Can it be said to apply to any community in which the Democrats have control?

The process of law is paralyzed, no business is transacted in the courts, and but little or none in the markets. The people are excited and weary, mercantile houses are failing, and other financial straits, scarcely any produce comparatively is coming to market, and stocks of goods in store lie in ruins.

A DOG LAW is a terror to legislators in more States than one. Last winter the Arkansas Legislature passed an act entitled, "an act to encourage sheep-raising," which imposed a tax on dogs. It became known as the dog law, and the House has passed an act to repeal it by a vote of 75 to 5.

## "Brains and Backbone."

According to a New York correspondent, Hon. Matt Carpenter, in reply to the question what he thought of the political outlook, said: "If I was a Democratic member of Congress I could answer far more satisfactorily. 'Because,' rejoined his interlocutor, 'the House of Representatives has the whole thing in its own hands. If the Democrats have the brains and the backbone to manage their case as it ought to be managed they must win. If not, they must lose.'"

And this is the whole truth. The Democrats have a majority in the House. The Constitution is their guide. It prescribes the mode by which a President is to be elected if there is no choice by the Electoral College. They have nothing to do but to comply with its requirements. Having elected the President, it will be for the country to decide whether he shall be supported in his office. They have no right to assume that the people will permit that instrument to be overturned and the government to be revolutionized. They have no right to surrender in advance, and yet they will do so, and betray their trust if they abnegate their duties under the Constitution and countenance a plan of election unauthorized by it. Mr. Carpenter is right. The Democrats will win if they have "brains and backbone." They may win under the conference juggle, but that will be a matter of chance. Having the majority, they cannot fail to win if they will stick to the Constitution.

## The New Pacific Railway.

Notwithstanding the complaints which are made about the terms upon which the consolidation was effected between the two competing interests for building a Southern railroad to the Pacific, we are gratified that the arrangement was made. It promises the great desideratum of a continuous line of roads from the Atlantic to the Pacific, on the 32 parallel, and of breaking up the monopoly enjoyed by the present line; and this will be sufficient compensation even for what is alleged by its enemies to be objectionable features. The government has been exceedingly lavish in its donations to the Northern, or Union line, which, without competition, is excessive in its freight and passenger rates; and we do not see why it may not be somewhat liberal with this line which, while it destroys the monopoly, will furnish a highway, open at all seasons, across the fruitful plains and through the teeming forests of the South and South-west. It is said that the whole sum to be guaranteed by the government to the new line, is not equal to its present annual expenditures for transportation of mails, military supplies and otherwise in furnishing and protecting the whole southern belt of the western portion of the continent; and the bill gives to the government not only a reserve of five thousand dollars per mile of the bonds, but all charges for every form of transportation, telegraphing, proceeds of lands, etc., and such portion of the net revenue of the company, in addition, if any shall be needed, as will fully reimburse all payments of interest assumed by the United States.

## Mr. Tilden's Cabinet.—Gen. West.

Soon after the election, in speculating upon Mr. Tilden's cabinet, the New York Herald reflected a general sentiment in recommending Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar for a position, and said of him: "Lamar is 'the preacher of peace between the two sections; the ablest and broadest statesman of the South.' No appointment would be more suitable, and it would be a great thing for this portion of the country to have a representative in the administration as able as L. Q. C. Lamar, but in the event he should prefer to occupy the post of duty assigned him by the Legislature of Mississippi, our State has other sons who would acquit themselves well in the cabinet, among them, Gen. A. M. West, whose reputation is far-reaching, as a broad-minded, conservative statesman. Than Gen. West, none would be wiser in council, nor more discreet, yet firm in action. Possessing great energy, his executive abilities are unsurpassed, and his knowledge of men as well as of business, is a marked peculiarity of his character."

If it should accord with Mr. Tilden's intentions to select a cabinet officer from this part of the Union, and for any cause the mantle is not worn by the distinguished statesman named by the Herald, Mississippi has other sons who would not prove unequal to such a responsibility, and one of them we have designated.

THERE is one pleasant reflection connected with the Tennessee Senatorial elections. Mr. Key, who turned a consenting ear to the demand of Morton, Boutwell & Co., in the interest of the defeated carpet-baggers, that Mississippi should be investigated and did actually co-operate in their foul conspiracy against our people, has been sentenced in his own State to retirement. There was a scarcely a corporal's guard in the Tennessee Legislature to do him reverence.

## AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.—Hon. J. B. Yellowley.

Madison, has introduced an important bill for the establishment of an institution of this character. It proposes to use for that purpose one-half the interest arising from the agricultural land scrip fund, donated by Congress, and to make an annual appropriation of \$15,000 from the State Treasury for the term of three years.

EMORY STATES, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, New Jersey, Nebraska and West Virginia, began balloting on the 16th inst., in compliance with the United States laws which require that "the Legislature of each State which is chosen next preceding the time for which any Senator was elected to Congress, shall, on the second Tuesday after the meeting and organization thereof, proceed to elect a Senator in Congress."

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## A State Department of Agriculture.

The annual meeting of the National Agricultural Congress will be held in Chicago in September next. Its President, Hon. W. C. Flagg, of Illinois, having written to this State for co-operation in the objects of the Congress, the following is his response to a letter addressed to him. It contains a suggestion in reference to a State Department of Agriculture that is worthy of consideration. If such a Department were established in connection with the office of Commissioner of Immigration, we believe that substantial results might be accomplished:

MONRO, ILLINOIS, Jan. 14, 1877.

J. L. POWER, Jackson, Miss.

DEAR SIR:—Your kind letter of the 4th duly received, for which I am very much obliged. I am sorry to know that agricultural organizations are so low as to be in Mississippi just now. I wish your people would follow the good example of Georgia in a Department of Agriculture. It seems to me that it would be a good investment. I should be glad to get, whenever your leisure and opportunity permit, some information as to your more prominent citizens likely to be interested in our objects and to aid in their promotion.

Truly yours,

W. C. FLAGG.

## The Question of Numbers.

According to the census of 1870 there were in Mississippi 382,986 whites and 444,202 blacks. Counting one voter in every six, and we have, say, in round numbers, 10,500 more colored voters than white. Estimating the increase of negro voters over white since that date, at 4,500, and the result is an excess of fifteen thousand colored voters. The number of white Radicals in each county would average say half a dozen, making from 300 to 400 of that wretched set in the State.

From this fair estimate it will be seen how utterly preposterous and false is the assumption of the Radical office-holders that the Republican majority is 25,000 to 30,000 in the State—counting every colored voter as a Republican. But this assumption is equally false with the balance. It is arrogant in the carpet baggers to say to the colored voter, you are a black man and therefore you must be counted as a Radical. It assumes that he has no will, nor independent judgment, but is a slave to the public plunderers who have claimed the right to use him as a voting machine in their own interest. But this comfortable theory of the adventurers has been completely overturned by the conduct of the colored voters in the last two elections in this State. They assisted in overthrowing the Radical party, and will henceforward co-operate with the white voters in guarding against its future resurrection in Mississippi, if nowhere else.

## How Shall Fines Collected by Justices of the Peace be Secured to the State?

This question is frequently asked; and the attention of the Legislature was called to it in the able report of the Auditor. The same difficulties which now surround the transmission to the treasury of the fines collected by Justices of the Peace until 1875 were experienced in regard to the privilege licenses. At that time, Colonel J. S. Hamilton, deputy Auditor, drew up a bill which became a law, requiring uniform receipts to be issued for each license. These receipts were issued by the Auditor and charged to the Sheriffs and in their settlements they have to account for them. The effect of the law is shown by the large increase of revenue from this source (see Auditor's report). Some such law as this would accomplish the same results in the case of fines by Justices of the Peace. The law could provide that the Auditor should have uniform Justice of the Peace receipts in denominations of say two dollars and fifty cents, five and ten dollars prepared; and should issue them upon requisition to Sheriffs, and they in turn issue them to the Justices of the Peace. The Justices should be required to give these receipts in cases of fines collected. They could with the denominations named above, make the proper change.

The Auditor could hold the Sheriffs responsible for these receipts, and they could hold the Justices responsible for them. If then, it should be provided that Justices should in no case collect costs unless the party charged should be fined, and that no fine should be for less than two dollars and a half nor should be for any amount for which these receipts could not be given; and with proper penalties for violation of the act, we feel assured that there would be less trouble about the collection of these fines, and that the school fund would be greatly benefited thereby.

There would be no trouble about the receipts. For a twenty-five dollar fine, for instance, the Justice could give two ten and one five dollar receipt, and so on. This plan might not work as well as desired, but it certainly would be a great improvement upon the present system.

AUDITOR GIBBS, in his recent circular, enclosing the act of January 12th, allowing taxpayers the opportunity of paying upon their lands that have been forfeited to the State for the tax of 1876 until the 1st of March, admonishes tax collectors to use every effort to collect the outstanding revenue, and further observes that "our State warrants are at par, let us try and keep them so, and the only way to do it is to collect the revenue closely, and account promptly for the same."

COUNTY FINANCES.—A note from Wm. Allen, Esq., Circuit Clerk of Rankin county, states that the warrants of that county are "at par, and money in the treasury to cash all warrants." Sheriff Cooper, of Leake, informs us that his county is in a like solvent condition. A few days since, we sent to a friend in Lexington, a Holmes county warrant, with instructions to sell. He remitted us the full face of the warrant. It would be interesting to publish the names of all counties that can make such a showing as the above. The retrenchment and economy inaugurated by the State Government has had a salutary influence upon county and municipal finances.

## The Radical Conspiracy Against Mississippi—The Lesson.

In another column will be found an article under the head of the "Mississippi scheme" worthy the attention of the people of this State. It relates to the plot of the conspirators to overthrow the existing government either by recognizing the defeated candidates or holding a bayonet election. The foundation of the plot was the Boutwell investigation in which the majority of the Senatorial Committee disregarded the truthful statements of conscientious and intelligent citizens, and accepted (or feigned to accept) as gospel truth, the lying statements of cunning villains, or of their blind and ignorant dupes. The logic of the partisan proceeding was the recommendation that the existing government of the people of the State be overturned and given place to bayonet rule or a carpet oligarchy headed by the army. President Grant has encouraged this revolutionary programme by repeatedly declaring that the government of Mississippi is in the hands of officials who were elected by means that would be discreditable to savages much less to civilized people, and by proclaiming through the press, that Ames is a "refugee" from the State. At the present session of Congress, the Boutwell programme has been openly advocated; and that it is a part of the settled policy of the Radical party, is shown by the continuation of the so-called investigation which was instituted by Boutwell & Co., after the election of 1875. Crowds of unscrupulous, office-holding witnesses have been summoned to tell their tales of horror, which have been circulated far and wide, to build up a public opinion in favor of, and to justify, the programme. If Hayes is juggled into the Presidency by the plan of the joint committee, everything will be in readiness for the execution of the plot. The conspirators will have a four years lease of power, and will be emboldened to do their worst.

## Publication of Private Acts.

We learn that a bill was introduced in the Senate on yesterday, and referred to the Printing Committee, which recites that the Private Acts passed at the last session were omitted from the volume of Laws owing to a misapprehension on the part of the Public Printers as to their duty in the premises. As we desire to be "right on the record" in this matter, we refer to page 216 Acts of 1876, where will be found an Act passed on the last day of the last session, in which the Public Printer is specially enjoined from publishing "in any book, sheet, Act or newspaper, to be paid for out of State treasury," any Act "incorporating or amending the charter of any town or city, or any act of a private nature, for the sole use and benefit of individuals." When the bill regulating the public printing was under discussion in the early part of the last session, the Senate voted down a proposition to exclude the private Acts. At the present rate of compensation for this class of work, it is a matter of but little consequence to the Public Printer whether the Acts of a Private nature appear in the pamphlet Acts or not; but it appears to us that any measure deemed of sufficient importance to be enacted into a law, should be published in some form accessible to the public. As the matter now stands, much of the legislation of 1876 is only known to those who examine the enrolled bills in the office of the Secretary of State, or who pay that officer for certified copies.

## Fire and Brimstone.

Our Hinds county readers doubtless have a remembrance of a colored politician named William Johnson, who figured variously as member of the Legislature, public school teacher and general manager of the Radical organization in the Raymond district in the days of its power. It seems that a disgust came over him after the election in 1875, and that he left the State with other discarded office holders, and entered the service of Beas Butler. Recently he wrote a letter which the Hinds County Gazette has brought to light, showing his tender regard for our people. It is as follows: "WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 2, 1876."

DEAR SIR:—I have just received one letter from Mr. Savel and none from St. Louis. Let the Democrats blow it away. I have after me like a pack of dogs sitting on a bill paying the moon. I certainly will not be induced by their vain threats and denunciations. I will show by showing upon Mississippi Devils, to secure the election of Gen. B. F. Butler. You can imagine how I skinned those Hell hounds, in this free christian country, where I could do so without fear, and in the presence of thousands of intelligent and applauding citizens. I dipped my tongue in sulphur and painted them with words, tails and scales, and made them look as mean, hellish and odious as you know them really to be.

## That Alleged \$800 Bribe.

THE CLARION has over and over again asserted the belief that A. R. Davis, late Lieutenant Governor, was paid the sum of \$800 to induce him to resign while impeachment proceedings against him were pending in the Senate, and the charge has been reiterated by the Democratic press of the State generally.—Times.

THE CLARION has not said what its "belief" is; but it has said that the charge was made by Dr. Fred. Barrett, a leading member of the Republican party, with name, date, specification and challenge of denial. He has never recanted nor qualified his charge. The Times further says:

We have only to add that Governor Ames could not have been assailed in the Times newspaper "for thus bytting the designs of those engaged in the scheme" as asserted by THE CLARION.

The design in procuring the resignation of Davis was to secure a Republican Lieutenant Governor who would occupy the office of Governor after the removal, or resignation of Ames. The latter refused to further the scheme by making an appointment; and we again assert that for his refusal to do so he was fiercely assailed by the Times which charged him with having failed to exercise the prerogative of his office and securing the Executive Department to the control of the Republicans. In the same connection it announced that a caucus had made a recommendation for the place. Dr. Barrett charged that the resignation was procured by bribery. The general charge has never been denied, though its personal applicability has been. It is an issue between Republicans. By their testimony it seems to be understood that the money was paid. The question is, who did it?

SINCE Congress is to call upon the Supreme Court to perform its political duties, why may not the Supreme Court return the compliment by asking Congress to relieve it of its judicial responsibilities? True the Constitution declares that the Legislative and Judiciary departments are separate and independent of each other; but if the president is set in the one case why not follow it in the other? It is a poor rule that don't work both ways.

## The Radical Conspiracy Against Mississippi—The Lesson.

In another column will be found an article under the head of the "Mississippi scheme" worthy the attention of the people of this State. It relates to the plot of the conspirators to overthrow the existing government either by recognizing the defeated candidates or holding a bayonet election. The foundation of the plot was the Boutwell investigation in which the majority of the Senatorial Committee disregarded the truthful statements of conscientious and intelligent citizens, and accepted (or feigned to accept) as gospel truth, the lying statements of cunning villains, or of their blind and ignorant dupes. The logic of the partisan proceeding was the recommendation that the existing government of the people of the State be overturned and given place to bayonet rule or a carpet oligarchy headed by the army. President Grant has encouraged this revolutionary programme by repeatedly declaring that the government of Mississippi is in the hands of officials who were elected by means that would be discreditable to savages much less to civilized people, and by proclaiming through the press, that Ames is a "refugee" from the State. At the present session of Congress, the Boutwell programme has been openly advocated; and that it is a part of the settled policy of the Radical party, is shown by the continuation of the so-called investigation which was instituted by Boutwell & Co., after the election of 1875. Crowds of unscrupulous, office-holding witnesses have been summoned to tell their tales of horror, which have been circulated far and wide, to build up a public opinion in favor of, and to justify, the programme. If Hayes is juggled into the Presidency by the plan of the joint committee, everything will be in readiness for the execution of the plot. The conspirators will have a four years lease of power, and will be emboldened to do their worst.

## Proposed National Returning Board.

The joint committee of the House and Senate have agreed upon a plan for counting the electoral vote, which embraces a board of arbitration, to be composed of five Senators, five Representatives and five members of the Supreme Court. All the committee are reported to have signed it except Senator Morton, and this is the only fact connected with it which would incline us to look favorably upon it. The production of this plan is due to the claim set up by Radical partisans and suborned Returning Boards that their favorite is entitled to the Presidency notwithstanding his defeat at the ballot box. It amounts to nothing more nor less than a proposition to give the defeated party an appeal from the decision of the people to another tribunal, without precedent, and unknown to the Constitution. It substitutes a game of chance for the supreme law of the land; and devolves upon the Judges of the Supreme court of the United States partisan duties foreign to their office, and at variance with the objects for which the august tribunal to which they belong was created. Though every intelligent person knows how the Presidential vote stands and who received a majority of the Electoral College, every one will feel that the result of the count by the proposed National Returning Board, if it should be sanctioned by Congress, is as uncertain as any other game of chance. If the Democrats are cheated out of the victory they have fairly won at the polls by this plan, whoever votes for it in Congress will make himself a party to the fraud.

## The Duties of Immigration Commissioner.

We assume that whether the Legislature permits the office of Commissioner of Immigration to be a dead letter for the present by withholding the necessary appropriations for carrying on, a future Legislature will not take the same view of the subject; but will adopt means to put it into active operation for the purpose of supplying the great need of the State, next to honest and intelligent government, viz: population and capital. Without these latter elements the State will make slow progress in wealth and prosperity.

If anyone thinks that the mission of an Immigration Commissioner is to be contracted to a mere agency for bringing servants and hirelings into the State he is wide of the mark. To properly perform the duties of the office, the highest order of capacity and intelligence will be required. Unless existing currents and influences which are operating to carry the tide of European emigration to the Northwest and to Texas, are counteracted by superior ability and well directed effort, nothing can be accomplished in turning it to our State. To effect this object there must be able organizing capacity at the head of the Immigration Bureau, so as to produce concerted action among our people, land-holding classes especially, and to create and hold out inducements for the purchase of homes and the investment of capital. If an immigrant desires to settle in the North-west he finds that large land-holders have converted together to divide and sell alternate farms at low prices and long terms of credit, and that all the information he can desire to enable him to make a well advised selection of a piece of land for a farm has been studiously and elaborately placed within the reach of all comers. Nothing of the kind has been

done in Mississippi, and will not be done until there is an active and efficient force fostered and sustained by the State. Here in Mississippi tens of thousands of acres of land in this State are lying idle for want of labor; but who belongs to, what is the precise location, and of the extent of each tract, what terms, what latitude, and what advantages are offered to settlers, are matters unknown, though they are precisely what persons seeking new homes desire to know. An organization is needed for the purpose of imparting information, for unless we have it, land grants will cast their fortunes elsewhere. The head of the Bureau to make his labors effective, and his office valuable to the State, should be furnished with full and precise information from individuals concerning the lands they have to sell, with elaborate maps of the location of the lands, with a description of the productions to which they are adapted.

We take it for granted that while the Legislature at its present session increases the salary or not, whatever action it takes will be with a view to the fact that the incumbent will be about for four years and that before his term of office expires the public will become impressed with the importance of making the bureau a medium of centralized action for the important objects aforesaid.

## The Apportionment Law.

ACTION HAD THEREIN BY THE LEGISLATURE OF 1871.

S. B. No. 318. Mr. Harris moved to amend out "37" and insert "31." The effect of the amendment